

INCOMING TELEGRAM

Department of State

47

CONFIDENTIAL

Action Control: 16874
EUR Rec'd: October 22, 1962
Info FROM: Athens DEPARTMENT OF STATE A/CDG/MR
SS TO: Secretary of State *SFB, Hally, Jr.* DATE *24/10/62*
G SP NO: 493, October 22, 6 p.m. X X
L H
SAL PRIORITY.
ARA CAP ACTION DEPARTMENT 493, INFORMATION PARIS 50.
NEA E PARIS FOR USRO.
AID P Reference: Department circular telegram 655, October 12.
USIA NSC Full text Section 107 Foreign Assistance Act of 1962 discussed
INR with official Ministry Foreign Affairs, who states GOG unable
CIA take effective legal action prevent ships call Cuba for following
NSA reasons:
OSD ARMY 1. All ships registered under Greek flag since October 1953
NAVY (estimated six million of total seven million tons) come
AIR under provisions Article 13 law 2687. Under this law, each
COM act of approval (i.e., individual registry) gives owner right
IRSY to sell, transfer or charter ship to any for trade with a
FMC specified list of countries. This list includes Cuba. Only
RMK countries excluded are Soviet bloc and CHICOM bloc countries.

2. Since May/June this year, Cuba not included in list
approved countries. Only three or four ships affected this
deletion, however.

3. Law 2687 was issued by specific authority of the
Constitution, Article 112 and can only be amended by a
revisional Parliament invested with right to amend Constitution.
Present Parliament is not a revisional one but next one
following new elections could be if political parties and Crown
agreed

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agreed. This is not step which likely be achieved rapidly in any case, and if done could have serious political consequences.

4. Law 2317 passed March 1953 provides for issuance royal decrees prevent Greek registered ship recall any port. In May 1953 decree issued preventing trade with Communist China and North Korea. This law, however, superceded by Law 2687. Therefore, any decree issued under 2317 would affect only those ships (#) October 1953. Tonnage thus affected only one million of total seven million. It is not known if any these ships now engaged in Cuba trade.

(b)(1)

6. Foregoing has been transmitted by Foreign Office to Ambassador Matsas and Permanent Representative Palamas' who have been instructed to inform USG and NATO of above.

Comment: Apparent constitutional regulation on constitutional right of some Greek shipowners to ship to Cuba stems from GOG willingness in 1953 to grant broad concessions in successful effort to persuade Greek shipowners abandon flag of convenience registry in favor Greek registry. Thus legally GOG finds itself in serious dilemma and it appears only immediate weapon available to it is moral suasion.

LABOUISSÉ

MEM

* (#) Omission, correction to follow.

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REVIEWED BY J. R. Murphy

DATE 1/20/68

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OSD

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